



Washington State Department of Agriculture Pesticide Licensing Fact Sheet

This fact sheet contains information about the pesticide licensing program administered by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). For further information, visit the Pesticide Management Division website at: <http://www.wa.gov/agr/pmd>.

Licensing

Washington State's pesticide licensing program includes nine license types and over 25 exam categories. All licenses must be renewed annually. The license needed to legally apply, distribute or consult on the use of pesticides in Washington depends on who your employer is and/or what type of pest control work you will be performing. To determine the type of license you need, refer to the section, "WSDA Pesticide License Types" on page 2. Pages 3 and 4 provide a description of the various exam categories available. You must be licensed in all categories in which you will be working. A **Commercial Applicator must be licensed in all categories in which the company conducts pesticide applications.**

Once you have qualified for a license, your employment status or the licensing status of your employer may affect the validity of your license. Specific examples are provided below.

- A Public Operator's license can be issued without employment by a public agency, but carries with it the stipulation that it is valid only when the licensee is employed by a public agency.
- A Commercial Operator's license can be issued without employment by a WSDA licensed Commercial Applicator, but carries with it the stipulation that it is valid only when the licensee is employed by a Commercial Applicator.
- A Dealer Manager license is only valid when the licensee is employed by a licensed pesticide dealer outlet. Licensing of pesticide dealers is administered by the Department of Licensing Master License Service (360.664.1400). (Pesticide dealer outlets must be licensed to distribute non-home and garden pesticides.)

Washington State University (WSU) Study Manuals and Short Courses

Study manuals may be purchased from WSU Cooperative Extension. Order forms are available from the WSU Bulletin Office at 800.723.1763, WSDA (877.301.4555), or your local WSU Cooperative Extension office. Preliminary training courses are offered statewide, January through March, by the WSU Pesticide Education Program and by some local extension offices. Information on these courses is available on the WSU website at <http://pep.wsu.edu/education/plt.html> or by calling 509.335.2830, 509.335.9222 or 253.445.4577.

Testing

Testing is conducted by WSDA every Tuesday at our Olympia and Yakima offices at 8:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. sharp. In addition, testing is conducted by field staff from 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the following locations*:

Mt. Vernon	Second Thursday of each month	Skagit Co. P.U.D., 1415 Freeway Dr.
Spokane	First Wednesday of each month	WSDA Office, 222 N. Havana
Wenatchee	Fourth Tuesday of each month	Washington Apple Commission, 2900 Euclid Ave.
Moses Lake	Third Tuesday every other month	Grant County Fire District Station #5, 11058 Nelson Rd.
(January, March, May, July, September & November)		

* WSDA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER THIS SCHEDULE WHEN NECESSARY.

Reservations are required and can be made by calling WSDA at its toll-free, automated reservation line at 877.301.4555. Please note: several WSU Cooperative Extension offices administer the Private Applicator exam upon request. Contact WSDA or your local extension office for further information. **NOTE: The Idaho and Oregon Departments of Agriculture will not accept Washington exams for individuals living in their state.**

You must be prepared to present picture identification and to pay all license fees at the time of testing. Please make checks payable to WSDA. If paying in cash, you must have the exact amount. **Test scores for applicants who have not submitted the required fee will be discarded after 10 working days.**

- After a second, third, or fourth failure in a calendar year, there is a mandatory 14-day waiting period between exam retakes. After the fifth failure, you must wait 60 days before retesting.
- If an exam is revised or developed, all affected licensees may be required to pass the new exam.

WSDA PESTICIDE LICENSE TYPES

License Type/Fee	Definitions
Commercial Applicator Annual license Fee: \$170.00*	A person engaged in the business of applying pesticides to the land or property of another. This land can either be publicly or privately owned. Prior to license issuance, a Commercial Applicator Financial Responsibility Insurance Certificate (FRIC) must be filed with WSDA.
Commercial Operator Annual license Fee: \$50.00	A person employed by a WSDA-licensed commercial applicator to apply pesticides to the land or property of another. This property can either be publicly or privately owned.
Commercial Pest Control Consultant** Annual license Fee: \$45.00	A person who sells or offers pesticides for sale at other than the licensed pesticide dealer outlet from which they are employed. In addition, commercial consultants may offer or supply technical advice or make recommendations to the users of non-home and garden pesticides. They may also perform wood destroying organism inspections if insurance requirements are met. (See "Structural Pest Inspector" on next page.) Licensed and employed Commercial Applicators and Commercial Operators may act as Commercial Consultants without acquiring the consultant's license.
Dealer Manager** Annual license Fee: \$25.00	A person who supervises the distribution of any non -home and garden pesticide from a licensed pesticide dealer outlet.
Private Applicator Annual license Fee: \$25.00***	A person who applies or supervises the application of a restricted use pesticide (RUP) on land owned or rented by him or his employer for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity. Note: Individuals in Ferry, Okanogan, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties who only apply RUPs for noxious weed control on non-production ag land or for weed and rodent control on rangeland may qualify for a 5-year pilot project. For further information on the Limited or Rancher Private Applicator license, contact your county noxious weed coordinator or WSU extension agent, or WSDA Pesticide Licensing.
Private Commercial Applicator Annual license Fee: \$25.00	A person who applies or supervises the use of a "Restricted Use" pesticide on land/property owned or rented by him or his employer for purposes other than the production of an agricultural commodity.
Public Operator Annual license Fee: \$25.00	A person who, while acting as an employee of a governmental agency, applies restricted use pesticides by any means or any pesticide by power equipment on public or private property. Public Operators may act as Public Consultants. (Public Operators licensed only in the Public Health category are exempt from the fee.)
Public Pest Control Consultant** Annual license Fee: \$25.00	A person who, while acting as an employee of a governmental agency, offers or supplies technical advice, or makes recommendations to the user of pesticides other than home and garden products. Public Consultants may not act as Public Operators without the operator license.
Demonstration & Research Applicator Annual license Fee: \$25.00	A person who applies or supervises the use of any experimental or restricted use pesticide to small experimental plots at no charge. (Public employees performing research applications fall under the licensing requirements of the Public Operator.)

* Includes one spray apparatus. There is a \$20 fee for each additional apparatus.

** License does not allow the holder to use or supervise the use of a restricted use pesticide or to commercially apply any pesticide.

***This fee is not required if applicant holds another valid WSDA pesticide license for which a fee has been paid.

Pesticide License Exam Categories

To become licensed, individuals must receive a passing grade of 70% on all required exams.

Laws and Safety (available in English and Spanish): This exam is required for all licenses **except** the Dealer Manager and Private Applicator. It is incorporated into the Aquatic Antifouling and Stump Treatment exams.

Dealer Manager: This exam fulfills the requirements for obtaining a Dealer Manager license and thus qualifies the licensee to act as a Dealer Manager for a licensed pesticide dealer outlet. A reduced version is available for individuals who have passed the Laws & Safety exam.

Private Applicator (available in English and Spanish): This person uses or supervises the use of restricted use pesticides for the production of any agricultural commodity on property owned or rented by them or their employer. The aquatic category is required if applying a pesticide to water which moves off the property.

Turf and Ornamental Weed (available in English and Spanish): The control of weeds (and moss) in all ornamental and turf situations, which includes but is not limited to golf courses, parks, schools, lawns, yards, gardens, and hospitals. *There is a Stump Treatment exam for those doing ONLY stump treatment applications.*

Agricultural Weed: The control of weeds in all agricultural crops including forest environments. *This category does not cover the application of soil fumigants. Refer to the Soil Fumigation category.*

Rights-of-Way Weed: The control of weeds on but not limited to the following rights-of-way locations: city, county, state and federal roads and/or highways, railroads, power lines and irrigation ditches. *This category does not include the application of pesticides into water. Refer to the Aquatic Pest Control category.*

Stump Treatment: The use of herbicides on cut stumps to control resprouting. *Note: Use the Turf & Ornamental study manual for this exam. Disregard chapters on "Turf Weed Management" and "Ornamental Weed Management." Under Herbicide Application Principles," only study sections on "Hand Sprayers" and "Sprayer Nozzles." Under "Herbicide Application" section, study material beginning with "Sprayer Delivery Rate."*

Agricultural Insect & Disease Control: The control of insects and diseases in agricultural crops including forest environments. *This category does not cover the application of soil fumigants. Refer to the Soil Fumigation category.*

Ornamental Insect & Disease Control: The control of insects and diseases in ornamental, turf and rights-of-way situations including but not limited to golf courses, parks, schools, lawns, yards, gardens, greenhouses, hospitals and rest homes. This includes but is not limited to the use of insecticides, miticides, fungicides, bactericides, molluscicides and nematocides. *This category does not include perimeter treatments around structures for spiders. The PCO General exam is required for these applications.*

Interior Landscaping: The control of insects and diseases in interior landscapes.

PCO General: The control of insects, spiders, birds, rodents and animal pests, including but not limited to: residences, public buildings and grounds, commercial buildings and grounds, disposal sites, animal feed lots and farmsteads, including buildings and transportation equipment. *This category does not include the control of ornamental pests, structurally destructive pests, and the inspection of properties for real estate transactions.*

PCO Structural: The control of those pests that attack structural material, including but not limited to fungus, termites, carpenter ants and wood-boring beetles.

Structural Pest Inspector: Allows for the commercial inspection of buildings for structurally destructive pests, their damage and conditions conducive to their development. This exam includes identification of physical samples of wood destroying organisms and their damage. *Note: Study sections 1-6 & 12 of the study manual for this exam.* *Note: Before this category can be issued, the applicant must verify financial responsibility. Both the Structural Pest Inspector Financial Responsibility Insurance Certificate (FRIC) and Structural Pest Inspector Bond Form are available on the Internet at <http://www.wa.gov/agr/pmd/etc/forms.htm#licensing> or by contacting WSDA toll free at 877.301.4555. The FRIC must be completed by the insuring agent **not** the license applicant. Note: If you are a Commercial Applicator, you must complete both a Commercial Applicator FRIC **and** a Structural Pest Inspector FRIC.*

Seed Treatment: The application of pesticides to seeds such as vegetable, small grain, grass, legume, fruit, berry, nut, flower and ornamental seeds.

Livestock Pest Control: The control of external and internal pests of animals, with the exception of virus, including but not limited to beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, horses, goats and poultry. Also covers the treatment of livestock premises.

Aquatic Pest Control: The control of aquatic pests (fish, insects and weeds) of water areas including but not limited to canals, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, marshes and water supply pipelines.

Aquatic Pest Control - Irrigation Districts: Limited to the control of aquatic weeds in irrigation district water delivery systems. Pests include but are not limited to moss, algae, cattails, pondweeds and other emerged and submersed aquatic weeds.

Public Health Control: This category allows governmental employees and certain others to use pesticides in public health programs such as but not limited to mosquito control, rodent control and insect control in situations of medical and public health importance.

Soil Fumigation: Use of soil-applied fumigant on agricultural crops and non-crop land to control pests including weeds, insects and diseases.

Stored Grain: The use of pesticides (including fumigants and rodenticides) in grain storing facilities, railcars, etc.

Fumigant: The use of fumigants (such as methyl bromide and aluminum phosphide) on stored commodities.

Structural & Turf Demossing: Limited to the control of moss on structures and turf.

Pest Animal Control: The control of pest animals in agricultural situations. (Trapping of animals does not require a pesticide license but may require a permit from the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. Contact that agency's Problem Wildlife Program at 360.902.2934.)

Wood Treatment: Use of wood preservatives for the control of wood damaging pests.

Aquatic Antifouling: Use of antifouling paints to control fouling organisms on the bottom of marine vessels. (Study material available at http://www.wa.gov/agr/pmd/docs/publications/aquatic_antifouling_fs.pdf or by contacting WSDA at 877.301.4555.)

Specialty Exams: Sprout Inhibitor and Sewer Root Control. (Study material for the Sewer Root Control exam is available at http://www.wa.gov/agr/pmd/docs/publications/root_ctrl.pdf or by contacting WSDA at 877.301.4555.)

EXAM SUBSTITUTIONS

EXAM	PERMITTED SUBSTITUTION(S)*
Private Applicator*	Agricultural Weed Control or Agricultural Insect & Disease Control/plus Laws & Safety
Structural Pest Control Inspector	PCO Structural
Laws & Safety	Dealer Manager or Private Applicator

**Note: To obtain the Private Applicator license using substituted exams, you must submit a completed application and, if applicable, the license fee (refer to page 2).*

For further information, contact Pesticide Licensing at:

Administrative Offices:	1111 Washington Street / PO Box 42560, Olympia WA 98504-2560 21 North 1st Avenue, Suite 236, Yakima, WA 98902-2663
Toll-free:	1.877.301.4555
Telephone:	360.902.1937
Fax:	360.902.2093
Email:	license@agr.wa.gov
Web site:	http://www.wa.gov/agr/pmd/licensing/index.htm

Persons of disability should notify WSDA in advance at 360.902.2015 (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf at 360.902.1996) if accommodation is necessary.
